

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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TAGS: PFOR UR VN

SUBJ: MOSCOW MARKS VIETNAM ANNIVERSARIES

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET MEDIA NOTED THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF VIETNAM WITH COMMENTARIES BLAMING THIEU AND THE U.S. FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS WHICH PREVENT A GENUINE SETTLEMENT. THE SOVIETS HAVE FOLLOWED THIS UP WITH EVEN HEAVIER ATTENTION TO THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET-DRV DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS JANUARY 30. KOSYGIN AND GROMYKO SENT MESSAGES AND MFA SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION CHIEF NEMCHINA WROTE A SIGNED COMMENTARY. IN COVERING BOTH EVENTS, ESPECIALLY THE LATTER, MOSCOW CONTINUES ITS RECENT

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MEDIA FOCUS ON PEACEFUL EVOLUTION IN VIETNAM AND UNDER-

LINES ITS ROLE AS HANOI'S FAITHFUL FRIEND. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET MEDIA MARKED THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIETNAM WITH COMMENTARIES IN IZVESTIYA (JAN 25) AND PRAVDA (JAN 27), WHICH STRESSED THE NEED FOR FULL ADHERENCE TO THE AGREEMENT. BOTH ARTICLES BLAMED SAIGON AND THE U.S. FOR THE CONTINUED LACK OF A DURABLE SETTLEMENT FOCUSING ESPECIALLY ON ALLEGED REPRESSION BY THE THIEU REGIME OF ITS POLITICAL OPPONENTS. IZVESTIYA WENT ON TO MENTION ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN THE DRV AND IN THE "LIBERATED ZONE" OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND UNDERLINED SOVIET ECONOMIC AID. PRAVDA REITERATED SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE PRG PROPOSALS OF MARCH 22 AND OCTOBER 8, 1974 AND CLOSED BY REAFFIRMING THE SOVIET COMMITMENT TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, "AS IN THE YEARS OF STRUGGLE..., SO ALSO IN THE DAYS OF PEACE."

3. ON JANUARY 30 THERE WAS AN OUTPOURING OF MEDIA COVERAGE ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET-DRV DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. PRAVDA THAT DAY CARRIED THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE FROM KOSYGIN TO PHAM VAN DONG WHILE IZVESTIYA ADDED ONE FROM GROMYKO TO NGUYEN DUY TRINH. THE MESSAGE STRESSED MOSCOW'S FRATERNAL SUPPORT FOR HANOI, BUT CONTINUED THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN WARTIME SUPPORT (PAST TENSE) AND SUPPORT NOW. BOTH MESSAGES CALLED FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. KOSYGIN ALSO ENDORSED THE PEACEFUL RE-UNIFICATION OF VIETNAM WHILE GROMYKO SAID THAT SUPPORT FOR THE DRV WAS IN LINE WITH THE PROCESS OF DETENTE.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE GREETING, PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) CARRIED SIGNED COMMENTARIES, UNDERLINING THE CONSISTENCY OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR HANOI, HIGHLIGHTING SIGNIFICANT EVENTS DURING THE PAST QUARTER-CENTURY, DOING HOMAGE TO HO CHI MINH AND STRESSING AGAIN THE PARIS AGREEMENT AS THE BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT. RED STAR NOTED THE VISITS TO THE DRV BY SOVIET MILITARY FIGURES, INCLUDING CHIEF OF STAFF KULIKOV IN DECEMBER, AND WAS MORE PESSIMISTIC ON THE FUTURE, SAYING THAT THE ROAD TO A PEACEFUL AND JUST SOLUTION IS STILL LONG.

5. MORE INTERESTING, BECAUSE OF ITS AUTHORSHIP, IS A REVERIE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY BY S. NEMCHINA, CHIEF OF THE MFA'S SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION, IN NOVOYE VREMYA (NEW TIMES) OF JAN 31. IN A SHORT HISTORICAL VIGNETTE, NEMCHINA, WHO WAS THEN SERVING IN THAILAND, EXPLAINED THAT A SPECIAL COURIER HAD TO WALK FOR FIVE DAYS FROM HANOI TO BANGKOK (SIC) TO DELIVER TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY THE DRV DECLARATION OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. MOSCOW'S FAVORABLE RESPONSE, SAID NEMCHINA, WAS A GREAT BOOST TO THE

PATRIOTIC FORCES. NEMCHINA STRESSES THE CONSISTENCY OF SOVIET SUPPORT, BUT UNLIKE OTHER RECENT COMMENTATORS, SPECIFICALLY NOTED THAT MOSCOW PROVIDED AID TO STRENGTHEN THE DRV'S "DEFENSE", AS WELL AS ITS "ECONOMIC POTENTIAL".

6. COMMENT: IN THE ITEMS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT THE U.S. CAME IN FOR A SHARE OF THE SOVIET BLAME IN CONNECTION WITH SAIGON'S ALLEGED EFFORTS TO PREVENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, THE SECOND SET OF ARTICLES KEYED TO SOVIET-DRV RELATIONS IS NOTABLE DEVOID OF ANTI-U.S. POLEMICS AND BARELY EVEN MENTIONS SAIGON. HERE THE STRESS WAS ON THE FACT THAT THE USSR IS IN THE FIRST RANK OF THOSE AIDING AND SUPPORTING THE DRV.
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